1: Roth--160-161 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 487

"The Tasmanians were without roads of any kind, except simple beaten paths, trodden down by them in various places in the course of time. La Billardière (II. p. 23) tells us that: 'On the borders of the sea we had observed many paths, which the natives had cleared; but nothing gave us any intimation that they had ever come into the midst of these thick forests.' In another place (I. p. 233) he mentions that one of the officers of the "Recherche," following a beaten path made by the savages through the wood, met six of them walking slowly towards the south. We further learn from the same writer (II. p. 25) that the aborigines did not shrink from using a route because of any difficulties it presented; he says: 'We were soon obliged to climb over steep rocks, at the foot of which the sea broke in a tremendous manner. This road, notwithstanding its difficulty, was frequented by the natives, for we found in it one of their spears.' Cook (Sec. Voy. Bk. I. [161] ch. vii.) noticed a path which led from a place the aborigines had just left, through the woods; and Rossel (I. p. 83) mentions seeing a hut, at which several beaten paths met."

1: Roth--161 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 487

"According to Backhouse (p. 121) they adopted the following method for finding their way through the intricacies of the forest. 'Many of the small branches of the bushes were broken and left hanging; by this means these people had marked their way through the untracked thicket.' A somewhat similar device is also mentioned in the evidence of Mr. Brodribb (p. 52), who tells us that a man 'saw some sticks placed in the bush, near the Green Ponds, in a track of the natives, in such a position as denoted, as he supposed, that they had come from the westward.'"

1: Roth--161 [2] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 487, 516

"A graphic account of the power possessed by these aborigines in tracing the steps both of animals and men is given us by Lloyd (pp. 53-54). He says: 'The aborigines possessed the faculty of tracing the footprints of men and animals to an extraordinary degree. Frequently I have enlisted a sharp-eyed native in search of strayed sheep.... By the first gleam of morn we had traversed miles of hills, green forests, and fields.... Suddenly, the galvanic exclamation, "Wah! wah!" would imply traces of the wandering sheep--so slight as to be almost invisible even to my practised eye, but so obvious to my aboriginal companion that he could instantly declare the hour of the night or morning on which the impression had been made. Once found, he would follow on their track at a quick-march pace--no matter what description of country the animals might have travelled over--until, lo! to my great joy, there stood the truants, perched on the very summit of some rocky, sugar-loaf-shaped hill, gazing at us as if in perfect astonishment at having been discovered.... Such, indeed, was the skill of the natives in tracing footprints, that during the eventful days of Bushranging .. the Government employed several of them as mounted police. In that capacity they were of infinite value.'"